(c) During the year 1993-94, Short-term loan amounting to Rs. 149.99 Crores was sanctioned to State Governments for Kharif season. During the years 1994-95 and 1995-96, no short-term loan was sanctioned.

Scrap Sale by Railways During 1995-96

2024. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Indian Railways had the highest ever scrap sale during 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) What was the scrap sale during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94; and

(d) What steps are proposed to be taken to keep this increasing trend in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes sir.

(b) The total value of sale was Rs. 1018 crores.

(c) 1991-92	Rs. 540 crores.
1992-93	Rs. 679 crores.
1993-94	Rs. 850 crores.

(d) With a view to maximised the sale of scrap, a management group has already been set up in the Railway Board headed by Additional Member (Stores). At Zonal Railways level the Additional General Manager at Zonal Headquarters and at Divisional level Additional Divisional Rail Manager at Divisional Headquarters have been nominated to closely monitor the progress of disposal and ensure that the scrap is not allowed to accumulate and disposal is prompt. The system is working satisfactorily and no further steps are proposed.

Abolition of Devdasi System

2025. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Devdasis system prevalent in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and other parts of the country encourages child prostitution and the spread of dreaded AIDS in these parts or the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to enact a Central legislation to abolish the Devdasi system in the country and rehabilitate the Devdasis; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) and (b) The Devdasi system, which was prevalent in some parts of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, has been legally banned. Despite this there are some reports that dedication in the name of God still continues, clandestinely, on a smaller scale.

(c) and (d) There does not seem to be a need for a Central law on the subject since the problem is of a localised nature. Both the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have enacted laws for the prohibition of Devdasi system in these states. These are:

1. The Andhra Pradesh Devdasis (Prohibition of Dedication) Act, 1985.

2. The Karnataka devdasis (Prohibition of Dedication) Act, 1987.

The commercial aspect of this practice attracts provisions of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 as amended in 1978 and in 1986. This supplements the substantive laws against kidnapping, sale, abduction and wrongful detention of women and girls.

Setting up of a National Commission for Youths

2026. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN